

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress and urge the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid

3 Services to increase pay rates for direct care support workers.

4 WHEREAS, direct care support workers (DCSWs) such as nursing assistants, home

5 health aides, and personal care aides provide essential services to individuals with

6 disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations in inpatient care facilities, home

7 care settings, and community-based programs; and

8 WHEREAS, DCSWs play a critical role in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being

9 of those they serve often providing assistance with daily living activities, medical care, and

10 emotional support; and

11 WHEREAS, despite the essential nature of their work, DCSWs are significantly

12 underpaid, leading to high turnover rates, staffing shortages, and compromised care quality;

13 and

14 WHEREAS, in 2020, the average hourly rate for DCSWs in Louisiana was

15 approximately nine dollars per hour; and

16 WHEREAS, the demand for DCSWs continues to rise due to an aging population and

17 increasing needs for long-term support services; and

18 WHEREAS, inadequate pay has led to a workforce crisis, reducing the availability

19 of qualified professionals and increasing strain on existing caregivers; and

20 WHEREAS, increased wages would improve workforce retention, enhance the

21 quality of care, and provide economic stability for these essential workers; and

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, in partnership with the Louisiana Department
2 of Health, has taken steps to increase wages for DCSWs and meet the need for quality care
3 for one of this state's most vulnerable populations; and

4 WHEREAS, federal programs such as Medicaid and Medicare set reimbursement
5 rates that directly impact the wages of DCSWs, and federal action is needed to ensure
6 adequate funding for increased pay.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
8 memorialize the United States Congress and urge federal agencies, including the Centers for
9 Medicare and Medicaid Services, to revise reimbursement structures, and implement higher
10 wages for DCSWs; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 presiding officers of the Senate and the House Representatives of the Congress of the United
13 States of America, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, the secretary of
14 the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and administrator for the
15 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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